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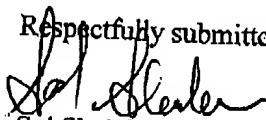
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REMARKS

This is in response to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Action dated January 22, 2004.

By said Action, Claims 35 – 36, 48 – 49, 95 and 97 were rejected under 35 USC 102 over Waterbury. Claims 38 – 40, 52 – 54 and 98 were rejected as obvious over Hersh et al. Claims 37, 41 – 45, 51, 57 – 59 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. It should be noted that claims 43 and 57 were independent claims and have therefore been considered allowable along with their respective dependent claims 44 – 45 and 58 – 59, respectively. Claims 1 – 34, 42, 47, 50, 55, 56 and 61 – 94 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

While strongly traversing the above rejection, Applicant, in order to obtain an early allowance and issuance of the application, has decided to cancel the rejected and withdrawn claims and rewrite the objected to claims in allowable condition. Previously withdrawn claims 42 and 56 have been redrafted to depend from allowable claims 38 and 52, respectively.

In view of the foregoing amendment, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication that claims 35 – 36, 38 – 42, 43 – 45, 48 – 49, 52 – 54, 56 – 59 and 95 – 99 are in allowable condition and that the case be sent to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Sol Sheinbein
Registration No. 25,457

Date: April 18, 2004